

## Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /069 W

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R 291807Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4676

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 28127

DEPARTMENT PASS BEIRUT AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: SYRIAN/LEBANESE RELATIONS

1. JEAN-NOEL DE LIPKOWSKI, NATIONAL SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR THE GAULLIST UDR PARTY, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A VISIT TO SYRIA (AND IS PLANNING TO VISIT EGYPT SOON). HE GAVE ME IMPRESSIONS OF HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD, SAIKA LEADER ZUHAYR MUHSIN AND OTHERS HE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH. DE LIPKOWSKI IS A FORMER STATE SECRETARY IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND, AS A LONG-TIME GAULLIST, HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ARAB COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY LEBANON. HIS REPORTS ARE SENT TO PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT.

2. IN DE LIPKOWSKI'S VIEW, THE LEBANESE SITUATION IS NOT ONLY EXTREMELY DANGEROUS BUT COULD WELL PROVOKE A FIFTH ARAB-ISRAELI WAR IF THE COUNTRY IS PARTITIONED ALONG CONFESSIONAL LINES. HE SEES THE ONLY WAY OUT OF THE CRISIS FOR THE SHORT TERM AS FRANGIE RESIGNING. HE WAS APPALLED AT THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT'S  
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MILITIA HAD ORGANIZED AN ATTACK ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S

HOME TOWN OF TRIPOLI AND DOES NOT SEE ANY POSSIBILITY OF THE TWO MEN WORKING TOGETHER.

3. DE LIPKOWSKI SEES SYRIA'S HAND BEHIND MUCH OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN LEBANON. ASSAD, HE SAID, HAS TWO GOALS IN MIND: FIRST, THE HISTORICAL GREATER SYRIA, AND SECOND, CONTROL OF THE PLO. ASSAD ALREADY HAS HIS MERCENARIES IN LEBANON IN THE FORM OF SAIKA, WHICH HE HAS BEEN SUPPLYING HEAVILY WITH ARMS, AND DE LIPKOWSKI CONTINUED, HE IS USING THE LEBANESE CRISIS TO PROMOTE MUHSIN TO TAKE OVER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PLO FROM ARAFAT, WHOM ASSAD FINDS TOO MODERATE. SUCH A MOVE WOULD, IN ASSAD'S VIEW, PLACE SYRIA IN A STRONGER CONFRONTATION POSITION AGAINST ISRAEL.  
RUSH

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